

DoD working around \$17 billion deficit for 2017

Federal News Radio

Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work said DoD needs to “come to grips” on military compensation and determine what the size of the military pay raise will be, and what DoD will do about health care. Work said he plans to sit down with the Office of Management and Budget on Dec. 4 and hopes to have everything locked down by Dec. 18. [READ MORE](#)

Levin bids farewell after 35 years on Armed Services Committee

Air Force Sergeants Association (Pages 14-15)

Our most valuable national security resource is the American service member. Our service members, in every service, active and reserve component, make enormous sacrifices to protect our nation. Fair pay, solid benefits, and excellent health care alone can't fully compensate for those sacrifices, but hopefully improvements we have made over the decades have made a difference in the lives of military families.

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Joni Ernst retires from the military

The Des Moines Register

Joni Ernst has retired after 23 years in the military. Ernst, one of Iowa's two Republican U.S. senators and the first female combat veteran in the Senate, officially ended her service in the Iowa Army National Guard on Monday, the last day in November. Military affairs will continue to be a top priority, she said. She serves on the Senate's Armed Forces and Homeland Security committees. [READ MORE](#)

Beyond the draft: Rethinking national service

Defense One

Right now, less than 1 percent of our population serves in the military and, in my view, we need to rethink and create a system where every young American has an opportunity to serve their nation in other ways. We need to create a culture of service where we are all invested in our nation's future and feel a shared sense of responsibility to our nation and to each other. [READ MORE](#)

AF presents Fisher House award to TAPS

U.S. Air Force

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James presented the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Award to the founder and president of the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors in a ceremony at the Pentagon Dec. 1. “TAPS's mission to provide ongoing peer-based emotional support to those grieving the loss of a fallen service member underwrites the sacred trust placed in the Department of Defense and the commitment to take care of our troops and their families,” said James. [READ MORE](#)

Military spouses can apply for scholarships

Yahoo Finance

The National Military Family Association is now accepting applications for its annual Military Spouse Scholarship Program. “With military benefits being threatened, and our military still at war, spouses need to have the funds and resources available to help them finish their degree, get certified in a new career, or be eligible to work when moving to new duty stations,” said Joyce Raezer, Executive Director. One scholarship recipient said, “I'll never forget the moment I was in the commissary and read the email that I received a scholarship.” [READ MORE](#)